

THE BIG SHED

APPLICANT

Vision Mechanics

[www.visionmechanics.org/
the-big-shed/](http://www.visionmechanics.org/the-big-shed/)

TOTAL PROJECT COST

£27,884

£15,076

(54%)

**Tyne Esk
LEADER**

£12,808

**Match
Funding**

PROJECT AIMS

- To enhance the facilities at the Big Shed so it can be used as a rehearsal and performance space for dance, theatre and aerial work.
- Offer affordable, accessible workshop space for artists/performers.
- Create a creative hub for artists/performers which will support them in their work.
- Engage the local and visiting communities through educational work and participation in events.

PROJECT DETAIL

The Big Shed is Vision Mechanics' first arts space outside their main base and is located near Prestonpans, East Lothian. Responding to the lack of affordable, accessible arts space in the region their vision was to create a space for dance, theatre and aerial rehearsal/performance and 12 artists' studios for rent. The company are also renowned for their educational work with schools and communities, engaging them in preparations for performances up and down the country. Their vision extended to the schools and communities across East and Midlothian, who would be no less engaged and would benefit greatly from participation in events.

RESULTS

The LEADER grant made the transformation possible. The project provided full fit out and conversion for the changes, creating the space much needed. This has resulted in a great deal of creative activity, providing opportunities for local artists and communities alike:

- Imaginative events: the Dragons of Drummhor, Quest for Oz, the Drummhor Midsummer Festival. Local communities were engaged in the creation as well as participation.
- Youth groups have used the space extensively for eg: Caribbean dance workshops and puppet workshops.
- Forest schools – set in a backdrop of woodland The Big Shed has been the ideal location for Forest Schools and similar activity.

The space has been lauded for its accessibility, and the grounds which are integral to performances are continually being upgraded to improve this.

